

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00784 142002Z

70

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 NSCE-00

SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 OPR-02 A-01

NEA-10 OC-05 CCO-00 OCL-00 /083 W
----- 100898

O 141635Z SEP 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3565

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO IMMEDIATE

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON IMMEDIATE

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC IMMEDIATE

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN IMMEDIATE

COMIDEASTFOR IMMEDIATE

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA IMMEDIATE

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI QMMEDIATE

CNO WASHDC IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0784

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR PINS PIN NET US

SUBJECT: KAGNEW: TRACT DELTA NOW INOPERATIVE

REF: A. ASMARA 0782 (DTG 140922Z SEP 75)

B. NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA 141437Z SEP 75

1. UPON RETURN APPROXIMATELY 1730 HOURS FROM TRACT DELTA OIC
NAVCOMMUNIT REPORTED FOLLOWING:

A. AT 0830 HOURS LOCAL I CONTACTED COL. STEFANOS, 2ND
DIVISION, REQUESTING THAT ESCORTS BE PROVIDED AS EARLY AS
POSSIBLE TO ESCORT OUR GROUP TO TRACT DELTA, AND I TOLD HIM
THAT WE HAD REPAIR PARTY TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE. HE SAID IT WOULD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 ASMARA 00784 142002Z

BE DIFFICULT TO ARRANGE FOR CONVOY ON SHORT NOTICE; HOWEVER, AT

MY INSISTANCE HE AGREED TO BE AT THE CHECKPOINT AT 1200 HOURS AND SAID AN ESCORT WOULD BE THERE AT THAT TIME TO ESCORT US INTO TRACT DELTA. WE THEN FORMED UP OUR PARTY TO GO TO TRACT DELTA. WE HAD TRANSMITTER TECHNICIANS, POWER PLANT OPERATORS, AND PA&E MANAGER TO EFFECT REPAIRS TO THE TRACT.

B. WE ARRIVED AT CHECKPOINT AT 1200 HOURS AND NO ESCORT WAS AVAILABLE. WE WAITED UNTIL ABOUT 1300, AND AT THAT TIME A TRUCK LOAD OF TROOPS CAME DOWN THE ROAD, AND WE PULLED IN BEHIND THEM, ASSUMING THEY WERE ESCORT AND PROCEEDED THROUGH THE CHECKPOINT TOWARDS TRACT DELTA. THE TRUCK LOAD OF TROOPS STOPPED AT THE FIRST VILLAGE ON THE ASPHALT ROAD. WE STOPPED AT THE JUNCTION TO TRACT DELTA WHERE THE ASPHALT ENDS. WE WAITED THERE FOR FORTY-FIVE MINUTES TO AN HOUR. WE KEPT TRACT BRAVO INFORMED VIA RADIO AND THEY WERE ATTEMPTING TO FIND OUT WHAT WAS THE HOLDUP WITH THE ESCORT. WE WERE THEN INFORMED THAT NO ESCORT COULD BE ARRANGED AND THAT WE SHOULD GO BACK TO THE CHECKPOINT. I HAD MY CHIEF CALL GEN. WORKU AND COL. TELAHUN AND INSIST THAT AN ESCORT BE PROVIDED TODAY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO ALLOW US TO RESTART THE GENERATORS AND BRING SOME TRANSMITTERS BACK UP ON THE AIR. WE THEN RECEIVED WORD THAT AN ESCORT WOULD BE COMING AND TO STAND BY AT THE CHECKPOINT.

C. AT ABOUT 1445 HOURS LOCAL WE WERE INFORMED THAT THE ESCORT WAS ON THE WAY AND THAT THERE WAS A REPORTED ELECTRICAL FIRE IN THE POWER PLANT AND THAT A FIRE TRUCK WOULD ALSO JOIN THE ESCORT TO THE TRACT. A FEW MINUTES LATER THE ESCORT CAME AND WE PROCEEDED TO TRACT DELTA. WE ARRIVED THERE AT APPROXIMATELY 1530 HOURS LOCAL. UPON ARRIVING AT THE COMPOUND, TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF THE POWER PLANT WAS READILY VISIBLE. THE COMPOUND WAS SHOT UP, DOORS AND WINDOWS HAD BEEN SHOT UPON OR BROKEN DOWN. PERSONNEL LOCKERS THROUGHOUT THE COMPOUND WERE OPENED AND THEIR CONTENTS SCATTERED AROUND. THE METHOD USED FOR STARTING THE FIRE IN THE POWER PLANT HAD BEEN TO ROLL 55-GALLON DRUMS OF LUBE OIL INSIDE THE POWER PLANT, CHOP THEM OPEN AND IGNITE A FIRE WHICH RESULTED IN TOTAL DESTRUCTION OF FIVE GENERATORS AND ALL CIRCUIT BREAKER BOARDS. INTERIOR OF BUILDING WAS COMPLETELY GUTTED BY THE FIRE. WE CHECKED THE TRANSMITTER BUILDING AND ALTHOUGH NO SEVERE DAMAGE WAS NOTED TO ELECTRONIC EQUIPMENT THERE, THOROUGH INVESTIGATION WAS NOT

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 ASMARA 00784 142002Z

HELD DUE TO IMPRESSION THAT TROOPS ON THE COMPOUND HAD BEEN RESPONSIBLE FOR THE DESTRUCTION.

D. ALL AMERICANS AND ETHIOPIAN WORKERS RETURNED TO VEHICLES AT THAT POINT AND ATTEMPTED TO LEAVE THE COMPOUND. WE WERE STOPPED BY TROOPS AND TOLD WE COULD NOT LEAVE AND TO REMAIN WHERE WE WERE UNTIL FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS. I RADIOED TO TRACT BRAVO TO GET COL. TELAHUN ON THE PHONE AND TO REACH THE CONSULATE AND INFORM THEM OF OUR SITUATION AND TO REQUEST

THAT COL. TELAHUN TAKE IMMEDIATE ACTION TO INFORM THE TROOPS TO RELEASE US AND ALLOW US TO RETURN TO THE CITY. THIS WAS FINALLY CONVEYED TO THE TROOPS AND, AS THEY WERE DEPARTING THE STATION ALSO, WE DID IN FACT RETURN WITH THEIR ESCORT. NO OUTWARD HOSTILITY WAS ENCOUNTERED FROM THESE TROOPS ALTHOUGH THEY DID NOT PERMIT US TO LEAVE THE TRACT WHEN WE DESIRED. WE SUCCEEDED IN RETURNING TO ASMARA ABOUT 1730 HOURS.

2. OIC NAVCOMMUNIT ESTIMATES THAT WITH MAXIMUM EFFORT, I.E., AIR-FREIGHTING GENERATORS, SPARE PARTS, ETC., POWER PLANT AT TRACT DELTA COULD BE OPERATIONAL AGAIN NO SOONER THAN ONE MONTH. SHERRY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, TRACKING STATIONS, MILITARY BASES, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE, POLICE PROTECTION RIGHTS, MILITARY TRANSPORTATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 SEP 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ShawDG
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975ASMARA00784
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750318-0837
From: ASMARA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750952/aaaabuet.tel
Line Count: 127
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 ASMARA 782
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ShawDG
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <25 JUN 2003 by BoyleJA>; APPROVED <05 NOV 2003 by ShawDG>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: KAGNEW: TRACT DELTA NOW INOPERATIVE
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, PINT, ET, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006